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Institute for Scientific Information®

3501 Market Street ■ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104 U.S.A. ■ (215) 388 0100 ■ Telex: 84-5305 ■ Fax: (215) 387-1266

Eugene Garfield, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

November 6, 1992

Dr. Bernard D. Davis
Bacterial Physiology Unit
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Bernie:

I've just finished reading your autobiographical essay in the 1992 Annual Review of Microbiology and rush to tell you how much I enjoyed this. I started out while exercising on the treadmill and then finished it at home on the weekend.

I don't know if you are aware how interested I've been in this genre. When Bob Day was head of ISI Press, I tried to get him to start a journal of scientific autobiography but it never got off the ground. There have been many books published since then but I still feel that my journal idea could fly. Of course, Citation Classics® has been my contribution to this aspect of the literature.

I was prompted to investigate your work and have found that you have several publications that would qualify as classics.

I specifically investigated your text book "Microbiology" and was not surprised that it was cited over 900 times. I'm sending you a printout showing your partial citation record, as we have it. This would not include any mention of your books. In fact, to do a complete citation analysis of your work, we would have to check not only the SCI® but also the SSCI®. The enclosed printout is only up to 1990.

✓ Your 1950 paper in Journal of Bacteriology has been cited over 2,700 times and we would be honored if you would write a commentary on this Citation Classic®. I am enclosing the usual information and guideline package we send out to authors.

All of the above leads me to ask you whether you could imagine condensing your already condensed autobiography into a Current Contents® essay. There are so many aspects of your life that, I believe, would find resonance with our readers. Clearly we would want to reduce or eliminate some of the more technical information.

To : Dr. B. D. Davis

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I was fascinated to learn of your connections with so many illustrious names in modern science. If any of this interests you, let me know and we can discuss the details involved in a CC® essay because I would have to reduce the amount of biographical treatment I usually provide in my introductions to other CC® guest essays.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene".

EG/MM

Encl: -letter of invitation and guidelines for Citation Classic®
commentary.
-printout showing citation counts.

cc E. Thurschwell